

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title and claims 1, 11, 12 and 25 are amended, and claims 26-36 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. Title Objection

The Office Action objects to the title as not being descriptive. The title is amended to be more descriptive. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Office Action indicates that claims 3, 6-9 and 18-23 include allowable subject matter.

III. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 10, 12, 16, 17 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP-A-08-152798 to Konno; rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Konno in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP-A-2000-356919 to Nakayama et al. (Nakayama); rejects claims 11, 13 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Konno in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP-A-2001-43966 to Umezawa; and rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Konno in view of Japanese Patent Application Publication No. JP-A-2001-228740 to Hamada. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Konno does not disclose, teach or suggest a fixing device in which "the winding axis is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the heating body," as recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 2, and similarly recited in independent claim 11.

Konno teaches, in Figs. 1 and 2, a fixing device 16 including a heating pipe 10 and an electromagnetic induction heating mechanism 14. Konno also teaches that the electromagnetic induction heating mechanism 14 includes an induction coil 14A and is provided on one end in the axial direction of the heating pipe 10. See Figs. 1 and 2, and Abstract. Further, Konno teaches that the heating pipe 10 is insertible into/removable from the induction coil 14A.

However, Konno teaches a coil axial direction that is parallel to the axial direction of the heating pipe 10. See Fig. 1 and Abstract. Because the coil winding axial direction is not substantially perpendicular to a rotation shaft/axis of the heating body, Konno does not teach or suggest the fixing device of claims 1, 11, 12 and 25.

Nakayama, Umezawa and Hamada do not remedy the deficiencies of Konno. Specifically, these applied references do not, alone or in permissible combination, teach or suggest a coil winding axis that is substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of a heating body.

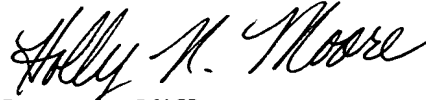
For at least the reasons discussed above, claims 1, 11, 12 and 25 would not have been rendered obvious by any permissible combination of Konno, Nakayama, Umezawa and Hamada. Claims 2-5, 10, 13-17 and 24, variously depend from claims 1 and 12, and thus also would not have been rendered obvious by any permissible combination of Konno, Nakayama, Umezawa and Hamada for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-25 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff

Registration No. 27,075

Holly N. Moore

Registration No. 50,212

JAO:HNM

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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